

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 635

By Herron

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Coach Bret Campbell upon winning the Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year award and the 2008-2009 University of Tennessee-Martin men's basketball team upon winning the Ohio Valley Conference championship.

WHEREAS, the General Assembly is proud to salute the accomplishments of our great athletic teams, those that work hard, make the necessary sacrifices, achieve success, and provide entertainment for large numbers of fans; and

WHEREAS, the outstanding 2008-2009 University of Tennessee-Martin men's basketball team, which has won the school's first ever regular season Ohio Valley Conference (OVC) championship, is clearly one such team; and

WHEREAS, the University of Tennessee-Martin Skyhawks, behind an impressive scoring performance and dominating defensive effort, defeated the Morehead State Eagles 79-65 on February 28, 2009; the victory earned the University of Tennessee-Martin its first men's regular season OVC basketball crown and a spot in the National Invitational Tournament (NIT); and

WHEREAS, the Skyhawks' offense, led by sophomore Marquis Weddle's season high thirty points and senior Lester Hudson's twenty-seven points, thirteen rebounds, five steals, five assists, and two blocked shots, was too much for Morehead State; and

WHEREAS, the University of Tennessee-Martin team took control of the game early and never looked back, leading 36-26 at half-time; maintaining their focus and stretching their lead in the second half, the Skyhawks finished with a dominating display of their basketball talent; and

WHEREAS, the victory was especially rewarding for Head Coach Bret Campbell, who has expertly molded the natural talent of the players into a championship caliber team; and

WHEREAS, in his tenth season, Coach Campbell earned his first OVC Coach of the Year award and guided the University of Tennessee-Martin men's basketball program to new heights; with 124 victories during his tenure as head coach, Coach Campbell is one of only three current OVC coaches to have achieved 100 victories as a coach in the league; and

WHEREAS, the University of Tennessee-Martin basketball players epitomize all that is good in the ideal student-athlete; they have represented their school, community and the State of Tennessee in fine fashion, displaying peerless character both on and off the basketball court; and

WHEREAS, during this incredible championship season, the members of the 2008-2009 University of Tennessee-Martin men's basketball team have etched their names onto the hearts of Tennesseans and into the annals of Tennessee sports history; their dedication, determination, work ethic, and talent not only made possible a successful and memorable basketball season, but also surely point toward their success in future endeavors; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Head Coach Bret Campbell upon winning the Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year award, and the University of Tennessee-Martin men's basketball team for their heralded success on the basketball court as they captured the 2008-2009 regular season Ohio Valley Conference championship.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.